

As to topping, each farmer can determine when it is best to top depending largely on the seasons. If I want cutters, I top high, if wrappers, top low.

I neglected to say, I never break a leaf or bruise a plant in any way while it is growing, as I think it has a tendency to dwarf it. I have never used Paris Green in the field, but have used it on plant beds to destroy the flea bugs with a very decided effect. I think if used carefully and systematically it would be a great saving of labor and money.

If you can arrange and use what I have written, do so, but I am afraid it is gotten up in such a rambling way it will not benefit you much. With best wishes.

I am very truly,

E. E. POWELL.

WILLOW GREEN, N. C., May 10, 1898.

Mr. O. L. Joyner, Greenville, N. C.:

DEAR SIR:—If my views and ideas upon the cultivation of a tobacco crop will help or benefit the farmer any, I will gladly give them to you for publication.

I have never planted a crop but what I have made a little money out of it, and I attribute my success to the care and pains I take with it from the start of breaking land to sweeping out of the pack house.

Just as soon as the frost has killed the vegetation in the fall, say November, I start breaking tobacco land for the first time, which should be very deep and thorough, subsoil behind the turn plow will be better still, if you haven't a subsoil plow, take all the works off a turn plow except the point, that will answer all purposes. This deep plowing in the fall is especially necessary, for several reasons:

- 1st. It destroys lots of worms and eggs.
- 2d. The heavy winter rains are allowed to sink down and drain off otherwise they stand on land and causes it to be hard and stiff.
- 3d. The vegetation has a chance to rot and be ready to be taken up by the crop while it is growing.

Second breaking should be done in February or March, this time should be just as deep as the soil will allow not to turn up too much clay.

Rows should be three and a half feet wide with a cotton plow if not sufficiently deep run the second time in the same furrow. Use plenty of manure, say from 150 to 200 bushels of well rotten lot and stable manure, 550 pounds of guano per acre. In listing, take off the big wing of turn plow put on the small one, in so doing you can plow deep and will not throw up list so high, throw out middles with small points on cotton plow and medium length mouldboards, also run deep. After tobacco has been set for about ten days or as soon as the plants take root the ground should be stirred.